

REMARKS

Claims 27-29 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 27-29 in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative, the undersigned below, during a telephone interview on October 25, 2006. The substance of the interview is captured in the remarks that follow.

In the Office Action dated September 15, 2006, claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McVoy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,827,726). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 27 recites a lamination product that includes, *inter alia* "a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the laminate being devoid of adhesive material, a portion of the laminate covering the first portion of the substrate and not being adhered to the substrate due to the release material." Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 is patentable over McVoy et al., because McVoy et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 27.

As discussed during the interview, claim 27 specifically recites that the laminate is devoid of adhesive material. In contrast, McVoy et al. discloses that "the inner surface of the front sheet 14 [of the product 1] is provided with a water-activated adhesive, e.g. polyvinyl alcohol." See McVoy et al. at col. 4, lns. 43-45. It is the Examiner's position that because McVoy et al. prefaces the cited sentence with "In the preferred system," it is only the preferred embodiment that includes such an adhesive. See Interview Summary mailed October 30, 2006. While the water-activated adhesive may be the preferred embodiment, it does not necessarily follow that McVoy et al. contemplates embodiments in which the front sheet 14 is devoid of adhesive.

For example, after discussing the "preferred system" at col. 4, lns. 43-45, McVoy et al. goes on to state "While reference has been made to the use of pressure-activated adhesives [for the back sheet 10] and water-activated adhesives [for the front sheet 14], it will be appreciated that other types of adhesive, e.g., any of the known heat-activated polyester adhesives, hot melt adhesives, etc. may be employed in lieu thereof." See McVoy et al. at col. 4, ln. 65 – col. 5, ln. 2. Thus, it is a water-activated adhesive, rather than another type of adhesive that is preferred for the front sheet 14. In addition, FIG. 3 is described as "a sectional, diagrammatic view of a laminar structure of a I.D. card prepared in accordance with this invention." See McVoy et al. at col. 2, lns. 11-13. As shown in FIG. 3, a thin layer

that is labeled as "14a" extends the length of the front sheet 14. *See* McVoy et al. at FIG. 3. Although "14a" is not disclosed in the specification of McVoy et al., in view of the discussion at col. 4, ln. 35 – col. 5, ln. 2, it necessarily follows that 14a is the described layer of water-activated adhesive. Also, the teachings of McVoy et al. make it clear that the medium 18 is securely laminated to the inner surface of the front sheet 14, as well as to the inner surface of the back sheet 10. *See* McVoy et al. at col. 4, lns. 45-55; FIG. 3. McVoy et al. does not disclose or even remotely suggest that the lamination may be made without an adhesive provided on the inner surface of the front sheet.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 and claim 28, which depends from claim 27, are patentable over McVoy et al., and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 27 and 28 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 29 recites a method for laminating a document in a lamination product having, *inter alia*, a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the transparent laminate being devoid of adhesive, the method comprising, *inter alia*, placing the document between the laminate devoid of adhesive material and the substrate having pressure sensitive adhesive material, and pressing the document and laminate against the exposed adhesive of the first portion. McVoy et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 29.

McVoy et al. is discussed above. Because McVoy et al. does not disclose or remotely suggest a transparent laminate that is devoid of adhesive, McVoy et al. does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 29.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is patentable over McVoy et al., and respectfully requests that the rejection to claim 29 be withdrawn.

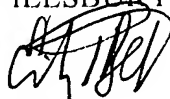
All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains at issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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